

## Purpose

Under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act or CAPTA (Public Law 111-320), a referral of a child under the age of three who is involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect must be made to the early intervention program funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In Missouri, the Part C of IDEA is known as First Steps.

The Missouri First Steps program contracts with a System Point of Entry (SPOE) in ten regions throughout the state. Each SPOE is responsible for the local administration of the program, including referral, intake, eligibility determination, and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) development.

The Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS), Children's Division requires staff to refer any child under age three who meets the criteria of CAPTA to First Steps. This report provides information related to the children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA or DSS in calendar year 2019.

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## Children Referred to the First Steps Program

In calendar year 2019, 1,128 children were referred to the First Steps program by the Department of Social Services Children's Division. Of the 1,128 children, 609 children (54.0%) had a referral source of CAPTA, and 519 children had a referral source of Department of Social Services.

Of the 609 children referred with a referral source of CAPTA, 142 children (23.3%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 467 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 230 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 132 were Part C ineligible; 75 were unable to contact/locate; 19 were refused by SPOE; 8 were inquiry only\*; 2 moved out of state; and 1 child was pending eligibility determination.

Of the 519 children referred with a referral source of DSS, 164 children (31.6%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 355 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 141 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 140 were Part C ineligible; 53 were unable to contact/locate; 13 were refused by SPOE; 4 were inquiry only\*; and 4 moved out of state.

\*Referral records that were closed with the reason *inquiry only* were included in this report. Inquiry only refers to those who are only seeking more information about the child or program.

## Active Children by SPOE Region

Table 1 represents the 609 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

**Table 1: CAPTA Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2019**

SPOE Region	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	% Served
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	24	6	25.0%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	28	7	25.0%
Region 3 - Northeast	48	9	18.8%
Region 4 - Northwest Missouri	34	8	23.5%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	17	5	29.4%
Region 6 - Central Missouri	61	9	14.8%
Region 7 - Southwest Missouri	49	20	40.8%
Region 8 - South Central Missouri	126	35	27.8%
Region 9 - East Central Missouri	57	12	21.1%
Region 10 - Southeast Missouri	165	31	18.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>23.3%</b>

Table 2 represents the 519 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

**Table 2: DSS Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2019**

SPOE Region	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	% Served
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	57	16	28.1%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	69	23	33.3%
Region 3 - Northeast	21	6	28.6%
Region 4 - Northwest Missouri	34	12	35.3%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	59	24	40.7%
Region 6 - Central Missouri	51	14	27.5%
Region 7 - Southwest Missouri	28	15	53.6%
Region 8 - South Central Missouri	100	25	25.0%
Region 9 - East Central Missouri	66	17	25.8%
Region 10 - Southeast Missouri	34	12	35.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>31.6%</b>

For a map of the SPOE regions, visit the First Steps website at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-fs-spoec-contact-information-by-region.pdf>

## Service Authorizations

Table 3 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 142 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA who received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2019, there were a total of 468 active authorizations for the 142 children.

**Table 3: First Steps Authorizations Resulted from CAPTA Referrals**

Service Type	Authorization Count	Percentage
Early Intervention (EI) Testing	123	26.3%
Special Instruction	108	23.1%
Speech Language Pathology	76	16.2%
Physical Therapy	67	14.3%
Occupational Therapy	61	13.0%
Applied Behavior Analysis	11	2.4%
Counseling	6	1.3%
Assistive Technology	4	0.9%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	4	0.9%
Social Work	4	0.9%
Vision Services	2	0.4%
Audiology	2	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 164 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS who received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2019, there were a total of 602 active authorizations for the 164 children.

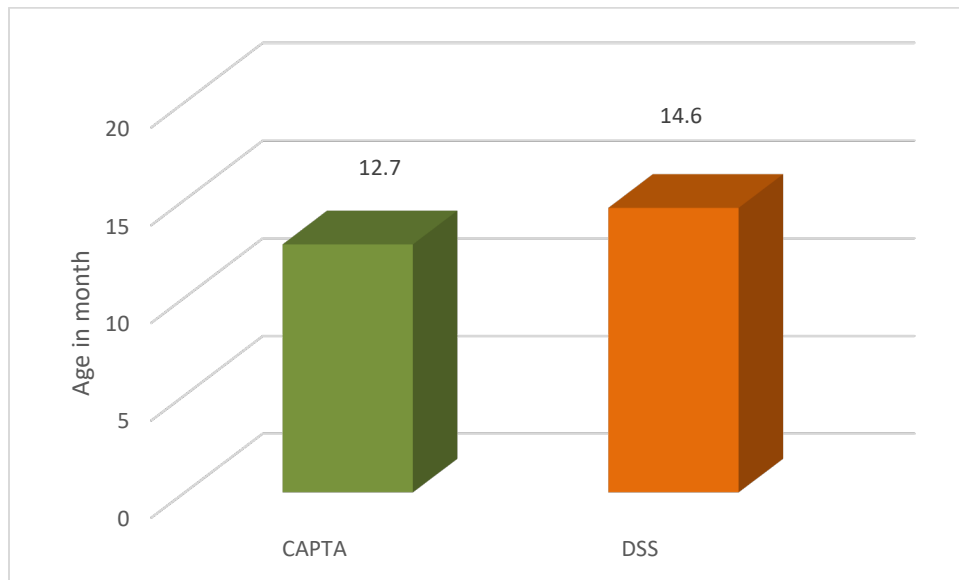
**Table 4: First Steps Authorizations Resulted from DSS Referrals**

Service Type	Authorization Count	Percentage
EI Testing	143	23.75%
Special Instruction	121	20.10%
Physical Therapy	101	16.78%
Speech Language Pathology	90	14.95%
Occupational Therapy	77	12.79%
Assistive Technology	18	2.99%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	13	2.16%
Audiology	11	1.83%
Applied Behavior Analysis	10	1.66%
Translation Services	6	1.00%
Social Work	4	0.66%
Vision Services	4	0.66%
Team Meeting - Eligibility	2	0.33%
Counseling	2	0.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Average Age

Table 5 represents the average age, in months, of the 609 children referred to First Steps by CAPTA and the 519 children referred to First Steps by DSS. The average age of children referred to First Steps in 2019 was 12.7 months for CAPTA referrals and 14.6 months for DSS referrals.

**Table 5: Average Age of Infants Referred**



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